



American Citizen Services Unit
U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo
Warden Message



TO: U.S. Citizens

FROM: ACS Unit

DATE: May 18, 2009

SUBJECT: H1N1 Influenza A Update – Health Ministry Issues Alert

The following Warden Message is being transmitted to give U.S. citizens in the Dominican Republic the latest information on H1N1 influenza A, formerly known as *swine flu*. Although the Ministry of Health has reported there are still no confirmed cases of **H1N1** influenza A in the Dominican Republic, they have issued an epidemiologic alert and mobilized their units in the country's eastern region after the Chilean Health Secretariat announced that two Chilean women, who had visited Punta Cana last week, have confirmed cases of the virus. The two Chileans left the Dominican Republic via Las Americas airport on May 15. One of the women was reported to have stayed at a hotel in Punta Cana. Soon after the information was received from the Chilean government, local health authorities in the Punta Cana region began to contact the people the woman had been in touch with during her stay in the Dominican Republic.

For the latest information from the Ministry of Health, please visit <http://www.sespas.gov.do/Institucional/noticias.asp>. You may also call the 24-hour help and information line for H1N1 influenza A set up by the Ministry of Health. The number is **809-686-9140**.

The U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. citizens in Santo Domingo that most cases of influenza are not H1N1 influenza A; any specific questions or concerns about flu or other illnesses should be directed to a medical professional or the above hotline. Although the U.S. Embassy cannot give medical advice or provide medical services to the public, a list of hospitals and doctors can be found on our website at the following link:

http://santodomingo.usembassy.gov/root/pdfs/doctors_and_hospitals.pdf

For further information about H1N1 influenza A, including steps you can take to stay healthy, please consult the Department of State information at http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_pandemic.html, the United States Centers for Disease Control website at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>, and the World Health Organization website at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>. For additional travel safety information, please consult the State Department's website at <http://www.travel.state.gov/>.

U.S. citizens may also call the Office of Overseas Citizens Services in the United States for the latest travel information. The Office of Overseas Citizens Services can be reached from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, Monday through Friday, by calling 1-888-407-4747 from within the U.S. and Canada, or by calling (202) 501-4444 from other countries.

The U.S. Embassy will update this warden message if new information becomes available. American citizens traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate on the State Department's travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy. The Consular Section of the Embassy is located at the corner of Cesar Nicolas Penson Street and Máximo Gómez Avenue, Santo Domingo, D.R.; telephone 809-731-4294; after hours emergency telephone 809-221-2171; ACS unit fax 809-689-6142; e-mail acssantodom@state.gov; web page <http://santodomingo.usembassy.gov/>